



32692

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP: (1700)**

Patent
Case No.: 53786US012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED
JUL 16 2003
GROUP 1700

First Named Inventor: GEHLEN, MARK D.

Application No.: 09/714658

Group Art Unit: 1771

Filed: November 16, 2000

Examiner: Chang, Victor S.

Title: ARTICLES THAT INCLUDE A POLYMER FOAM AND METHOD
FOR PREPARING SAME

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

July 8, 2003

Date

Signed by: Sharon L. Andrew

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on May 8, 2003, Applicants provide the following Amendment and Response. Please amend the application as follows:

In the claims:

1. (Amended twice) A foam article comprising a polymer foam, said polymer foam having at least one of its major surfaces smooth to an Ra value less than about 75 micrometers, as measured by laser triangulation profilometry, said polymer foam being smooth without being bonded to an additional layer,

said polymer foam comprising a homogeneous distribution of a plurality of thermoplastic expandable polymeric microspheres,

wherein said plurality of expandable polymeric microspheres are at least partially expanded.

57. (Amended once) The foam article according to claim 1, further comprising at least one layer comprising a polymer composition, said layer bonded to said polymer foam.

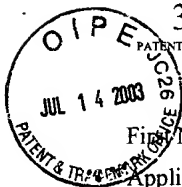


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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

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Attached is an amendment in the above-identified application. The fee for this amendment is computed as follows:

Claims As Amended						
(1)	(2) Claims Remaining After Amendment	(3)	(4) Highest No. Previously Paid For	(5) Present Extra	(6) Rate	(7) Additional Fee
Total Claims	41	Minus	** 48	0	x \$18.00	\$0.00
Independent Claims	2	Minus	*** 7	0	x \$84.00	\$0.00
Additional fee for filing one or more multiple dependent claims, if no such fee has been previously paid					\$280.00	\$0.00
Total Additional Fee For This Amendment →						\$0.00
** If the "Highest No. Previously Paid For" in this space would be less than 20, write "20" in this space.						
*** If the "Highest No. previously Paid For" in this space would be less than 3, write "3" in this space.						

Please charge to Deposit Account 13-3723 any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary, it is hereby requested. One copy of this sheet marked duplicate is also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

July 8, 2003

Date

By:

Jean A. Lown

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